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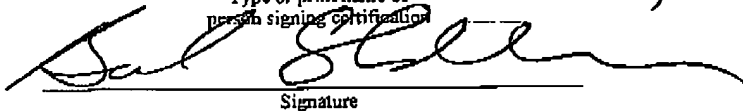
FEB 10 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : YAMAZAKI, Tomotaka *et al.* Notice of Allowance  
Appl. No. : 09/862,656 Dated: 01/12/2006  
Filed : May 21, 2001 Confirmation No. 8141  
Title : INFORMATION-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND INFORMATION-  
PROCESSING METHOD  
Art Unit : 2626  
Examiner : WORKU, Negussie

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151FACSIMILE

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February 10, 2006

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

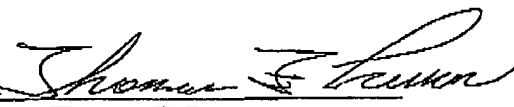
This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed January 12, 2006. To the extent the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be

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interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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